

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2017

RE: RVS to upgrade aging facilities

In recognition that several of its older schools require modernization, Rocky View Schools plans to remove four projects from its capital plan and fund them through its Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) portfolio or its Cash-in Lieu Reserve held for schools serving students living in Rocky View County.

“The unprecedented student growth in our jurisdiction over the last decade continues to place new schools at the top of our capital plan, pushing down modernization projects to our older schools,” said Associate Superintendent Business and Operations Darrell Couture. “Given this trend will likely continue into the foreseeable future, we are going to fund modernization projects at George McDougall, Elbow Valley, and Indus through IMR monies and rebuild Westbrook School via Cash-in-Lieu.

Couture explained that each year the jurisdiction receives approximately six million dollars from the provincial government for maintenance projects under its IMR grant. Using three million carried over from 2016/17 and IMR monies received across the 2017/18 and 2018/19 school years, RVS plans to begin the design and construction of:

- a modernization of George McDougall’s Career and Technology Studies wing, up to \$300K in 2017/18 for project design and initial construction;
- a modernization to Elbow Valley, totalling \$500K in 2017/18 for its administration suite and front entrance. Within three to five years, IMR monies will be allocated for its roofing, electrical, and mechanical system; and,
- a major modernization of Indus’ core building, valued at \$6 million.

“Indus School, which was built in the 1950s, requires the most significant upgrades,” said Couture. “Our plan is to house students in portables for the 2018/19 school year, while we strip the school to its studs and re-build.”

Two of the three projects - Elbow Valley and Indus - have been approved by the Board of Trustees, while George McDougall’s CTS modernization will be considered by the Board, December 7, 2017.

In relation to Westbrook School, Couture said RVS will access \$6 million from its cash-in-lieu to build a new school to the north of the current facility. Approved by the Board, Nov. 16, construction will likely begin this summer.

Todd Brand, Board Chair said “trustees are very excited to be able to provide enhanced facilities for these school communities. We also applaud our administration for finding creative solutions to address our aging facilities.”

Projects approved by the Board for Indus and Westbrook remain subject to ministerial support and approval.

BACKGROUNDER

Westbrook Replacement School

Westbrook School, located thirty minutes north of Cochrane, was built in 1953 as a wood-framed construction building. In RVS' 2018-2021 Capital Plan, replacement of Westbrook School is listed as Priority 9.

Anticipating construction costs of \$6 million, a new core – base building that is fixed in place – will be built to the north of the current school, providing approximately 1600m² of space and include the gymnasium, change rooms, washrooms, ancillary spaces, break-out spaces, and learning commons. Classroom spaces will be provided through modular units, currently within RVS inventory, and attached to the core school building.

Schedule:

To accomplish the goal of a Westbrook Replacement School the following schedule has been suggested:

<i>Nov 2017</i>	Approval by RVS Board of Trustees
<i>Nov 2017 – Jan 2018</i>	Approval for relocation of modular units by Alberta Education through the 2018 modular grant
<i>Jan – May 2018</i>	Design development of school building
<i>May 2018</i>	Construction RFP (Request for Proposal) and Project Awarded
<i>July 2018 – Dec 2019</i>	Construction. Students continue to attend school in original building
<i>Jan 2020</i>	Students begin classes in new building

Indus School Modernization

Indus School, located in the far southeast part of Rocky View School's jurisdiction, was built in 1951 with five subsequent additions (1964, 1971, 1978, 1979, and 1999). In RVS' 2018-2021 Capital Plan, replacement/modernization of Indus School is listed as Priority 10.

As the 'shell' of Indus – its walls, roof, and foundation are in good condition, RVS plans to modernize the interior of the building. The current footprint will be used for ancillary, flex, CTS space, and classrooms with additional classroom space being provided by way of modular units. The gym and the current modular units are the two parts of the school that will remain largely untouched.

The core space will be 1875m², with an anticipated modernization budgeted of \$5.9 million. The total IMR received by RVS annually is approximately 6 million. This project will be funded over two years.

Schedule:

To accomplish the goal of modernizing Indus School the following schedule has been suggested:

<i>Nov 2017</i>	Approval by RVS Board of Trustees
<i>Nov 2017 – Jan 2018</i>	Approval for relocation of modular units by Alberta Education through the 2018-19 modular grant
<i>Jan – May 2018</i>	Design development of school building
<i>July 2018 – Dec 2019</i>	Construction. Students will be instructed in the modular units and gymnasium
<i>Jan 2020</i>	Students begin classes in new building